



The Beacon

The Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City

May, June and July, 2018

website: www.firstbaptist-slc.org Hosted by Xmission

From Your Pastor:



Our Mission

About ten years ago, First Baptist Church adopted a Mission Statement. It came out of several conversations as a church and is still very much relevant to our life together today. (The mission statement is on one of the wall plaques across from the office) It is the mission that guides the leadership of the church. It is what we hold everything against and ask, “How is this accomplishing the mission God has called us to?” In reality, I see the fulfillment of our mission happening all around us and in many different ways. Here is the mission statement:

We are a worshipping community of Christ seeking to display God’s love through being:

- A rich fellowship with mutual support and respect of one another.
- A place where each can develop and foster faith in Christ that is encouraging and safe.
- A people loving beyond our congregation to the community and the world.

To be a worshipping community means that being together on Sunday morning experiencing worship is central to our life together. In worship we experience the Holy Spirit together; we sing God’s praises together; we offer our prayers together; we hear the scriptures and seek their meaning together. Worship is unique and something that does not happen in any other

context. While one does not need to be in church to have a relationship with Christ, one sure is missing out on incredible blessings without it.

We are a community that focuses on the love of God through Christ displayed in everything we do, such as being a community that supports each other. We as a church are great at rallying around each other in times of difficulty (If we know about them...). Cards and notes, phone calls, meals and many other small expressions of love have the effect of making people feel valued. We also are a place that is comfortable, and even revel, in our differences. We all come from different backgrounds and places. We each are at different stages in our faith. We are many different cultures and races and experiences. Yet our respect for each other's journeys makes it easy to allow our oneness in Christ to transcend those differences.

This church indeed values being on the journey of faith. We seek to offer many ways to explore one's faith and to put into practice the things we learn together. What is perhaps most significant and what sets us apart from other approaches is that we are very comfortable with questioning and even doubting. It is okay here to say, "I don't know" or to leave questions un-answered. Faith is a life-long pursuit so we don't wrap things up neatly in a box and hand it to you. You have to work out your faith "in fear and trembling" as Paul puts it (Phil 2:12). Our role is to come alongside each other as we explore and grow. This has been very healing for many people in our midst.

Our love for mission is also central to who we are. This church has always been actively contributing to the local and global community and no more so than now. We go looking for ways to make the world a better place and for no other reason than to do good for the sake of doing good. This has given us a reputation that goes beyond our membership and out into the city. I don't know if you hear the accolades, but I often get commended for the work of First Baptist Church when I am around town. People notice the good work we do and more importantly, people's lives are better because of the work we do.

This is the Mission of First Baptist Church being played out in our life together. It is a grand, God sized mission. Each of us is a part of this wonderful community and it is your participation that makes us who we are. It is my fervent prayer that you see yourself here, engaging in this important mission: nurturing and being nurtured, growing and learning and being challenged, and contributing to the good we do together in the world. This is **your** church and we are less when you are not here. The blessings of this community in my own life and the life of my family can hardly be counted. There are blessings for all of us here. So as the summer approaches, I encourage each of you to make being actively involved with church a priority when you are in town. This is **your** church, and you belong here.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Curtis

Happenings at First Baptist:

May:

- 1: Beers and Bros 6 pm Fiddler's Elbow
- 6: Communion Sunday—Cinco de Mayo Party and Bazar
- 10: AB Women's Luncheon at noon
- 13: Happy Mother's Day to all our mothers
- 15: Beers and Bros 6 pm at Fiddler's Elbow
- 18: Third Friday Bingo at 7 pm
- 20: Sunday Supper at 5:30 pm
- 22: Council of Ministries at 5:45 pm
- 28: Memorial Day—Church and Child Development Center closed.
- 31: Interfaith Pride Service 7 pm Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church

Happy May Birthday to: May 1: Brett Handy May 2: Hattie Layton, Billie Tripp. May 4: Joyce Urry. May 6: Julia Watson. May 7: Valerie Winn. May 10: Bishop Brown. May 13: Deborah Taylor. May 14: Brian Cooper, Cassie Cooper. May 15: Ken Burnett. May 19; Meghan Fellows. May 20: Ethan Alstrom. May 21: Steven Ireland. May 23: Al Heitman. May 24: McKenzie Nelson, Al Deware. May 25: Megan Roth May 26: Bob Brown. May 31: Stephanie Gosdis

June:

- 3: Communion Sunday
- 5: Beers and Bros 6 pm Fiddler's Elbow
- 17: Happy Father's Day to all our fathers
- 19: Beers and Bros 6 pm at Fiddler's Elbow
- 26: Council of Ministries at 5:45 pm

Happy June Birthday to: June 1: Vicki Firestack. June 3: Henry Winn June 7: Christel Fox. Greg Allen. June 9: Joel Everts. June 10: Melinda Canfield June 11: Austin Bond, June 13: Gabriel Vasso. June 14: Susan Thompson, June 15: Joe Ellis, June 18 Chad Hansen, June 20 Glenda McNulty June 21: Dustin Wolters. June 22: Jeannette Flamming, Shirley Rogers. June 23 Micha Salmon June 25: Susan Everts, June 26: Greg Roth. June 29: Joel "Jay" Agustin

July:

- 1: Communion Sunday
- 4: Church and Child Development Center closed for holiday
- 8: Camp Utaba begins
- 15: Camp Sunday
- 17: Beers and Bros 6 pm at Fiddler's Elbow
- 24: Church and Child Development Center closed for holiday

Happy July Birthday to: **Happy Birthday to:** July 3: Paula Walker. July 4: Phyllis Hollen. July 6: Matt Chaney. July 13: Chuck McCarty, Gene Miner. July 16; Delia Gray July 18: Verna Cook, Melissa Lepore. July 22: Lee Fry. July 27: Daniel Webster July 28: Marquita Halvorsen.

Happy 100th Birthday to Marquita Halvorsen!

Join Gordon Remington in Skaggs Chapel on the first Sunday of every month at 10:30 am to pray the prayer list in community prayer.

Thank You Spotlight—Our Fellowship Team!

Special Thanks this issue goes to our Fellowship Team headed by Julia Watson and Pat Ditton with assistance from Ken Burnett, Lynn Christensen and countless others. From the delicious Easter Brunch and reception (Thanks to Chef Ken and all his helpers in the Kitchen and Julia and Pat who decorated) to the upcoming Cinco de Mayo, Chicken in the Courtyard, Autumn Fest, Thanksgiving Dinner and St Patrick's Day dinner and dessert auction and EVERY Sunday during Fellowship Time these devoted folks keep our stomachs full and delight us with treats so we can visit together and share times of fun and fellowship. We can never say THANK YOU enough to these folks for all their hard work—this includes everyone who signs up to host Coffee Hour following worship. These times of being together are so important to the life of the church and let's face it—Nobody eats better than Baptists Do!!

Other Thank Yous:

To our Choir, Beth and Aaron—thanks for all your hard work and beautiful music during Lent, Holy Week and Easter.

To everyone who donated lilies for the church on Easter.

To everyone who helped with the Roma Downey book signing and making our visitors feel welcome here at FBC.

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta and Spring Bazar

Vamos de Fiesta! The church will be hosting a Cinco de Mayo party on **Sunday May 6th after church**. We will also be having a silent auction to benefit our "special projects" fund. ***Join us after worship for great food and fun!***

SHUT-IN MINISTRY

The first Sunday of each month a bag of goodies is prepared for each of our shut-ins (or those that stay closer to home for various reasons). The bags are delivered during the week on behalf of the church by amazing faithful volunteers. Also thanks to Maggie Chaney who handmakes the beautiful card that accompanies each bag and for the Young Adults who stuff the bags each month. If you want an incredible blessing, we invite you to become part of this ministry by dropping off a bag and enjoying a visit. If you feel the Lord calling you to this ministry, please contact Greg Allen (gpaiz7890@gmail.com) or call 801-928-4449.



LAVA HOT SPRINGS

Late January of this year a group of women journeyed to Lava Hot Springs for fun, food and fellowship. Thanks to Marion Deware who has coordinated this event for the past several years. Besides the soaking, shopping, craft (check out photos of our hair coloring craft this year) and eating, each evening this wonderfully diverse group of women comes together for an inspiring devotion, discussion and prayer reminding us how amazing our God is! The 2019 dates are set and if you or any women you know would like to join us speak to Marion Deware (mdeware@centurylink.com) or call 435-882-0708.

COUNCIL CORNER:

The council is pleased to introduce the Council Corner where information will be shared and questions answered. If you have concerns or feedback you'd like addressed, don't hesitate to speak with any member of the Council.

COUNCIL MINUTES

The Council Meeting Minutes are available following every meeting. If you'd like a hard copy or have the minutes emailed to you, please speak with or email Dennis McCracken (office@firstbaptist-slc.org).

PARKING LOT UPDATE

In January the parking lot was dedicated to thank God for blessing FBC once again (check out the pictures). Thank you to everyone who prayed and/or made a financial pledge to this project.

We want to also take time to give a few updates and respond to questions:

- Recognition Stones – Currently the names appear light depending on the sun and can be difficult to read. This spring or early summer the names on the recognition stones will be darkened so they are easily seen.
- Payment – All parties associated with the parking lots project have been paid PTL! There are no outstanding invoices. The generous gift from the Skaggs foundation covered costs and in addition the FBC Foundation granted funds against the pledges, to cover the rest of the cost. The FBC Foundation is re-paid as pledges are collected.
- Lighted handicapped path – A lighted path was part of the original plan to ensure safety. A decision is being made on which type of lighting will work best.
- Number of parking stalls – Concerns have been raised around the loss of parking spots. In total there are 68 stalls (4 less than before). The 4 less stall means we're now in compliance with handicap parking and to ensure our safety if the need for emergency vehicles arise (i.e., fire engine) arises.

Sunday Supper May 20

We would like to invite you to dinner for a night of fellowship at the First Sunday Supper. Please come to church to join us for a simple comfort food dinner with friends. This is a great chance to catch up with your church friends, and to bring new friends, family, neighbors. The first one will be **Sunday, May 20th starting at 5:30**. All ages are welcome. You don't have to bring anything and the gym will be open. You can eat and go or stay as long as you like. We will start serving at 5:30, and stop serving at 6:30ish. We will close up the church at 7:30-8:00ish. Please let us know if you want to help cook or clean up. Many hands you know... There are no tickets, but if you might come, please let Dennis know by end of day Friday, May 18.

We have set the dates for the Rummage Sale!

We will move to the gym on **Saturday Aug 11** and the sale opens on **Aug 16,17,18,24 and 25**. We will have a few presorting parties during the summer to help the move be more efficient. You may bring items for the sale anytime and we will store them in our storage rooms. We ask that big items such as furniture be brought to the sale on Aug 11 or anytime that week. *We cannot take mattresses, TV's or computer monitors.*

Finance News:

At the End of April our church finances look like this;

Amount given by congregation for Jan-Apr: \$46,216.00

Amount needed according to the budget for Jan-Apr: \$66,362.00

We also receive donations each month from the Child Development Center and from the many organizations who rent our building spaces.

Haiti Water project had \$ 1638.62 donated towards a well! Thanks!

Some Gentle reminders:

We do offer several ways to donate to FBC! You can pay your pledge or donate by direct deposit or put them on your credit card. Ask Dennis for the form and he will be happy to help you get signed up. This is an easy way to make sure your donations get to the church every month.

Summer is here and with it comes vacations and family events and lazy weekend mornings. If any of the events keep you away from worship, please keep your pledges and offerings current. You can always mail them in, drop them by or electronically send them. The work of the church goes on all summer long and your pledges and offerings are vital in helping us keep the bills paid. Thanks for your assistance.

We would encourage you to keep up with your pledges to Pave The Way. The parking lot looks wonderful. We still owe money to the Foundation as they covered the final payment on the construction. We do have pledges from you to cover that loan. These can be paid by direct deposit or credit card too.

Plea for the Angel Fund: No child should have to miss camp because they cannot afford to go. We ask all those grandparents and aunts and uncles and cousin to help by donating to our Angel Fund. This fund insures that all our kids get a great camping experience. And if you know kids who are camp age, please encourage them to get their registrations in NOW!

Camp Utaba—July8-13, 2018: Registrations were mailed the end of April. If you did not receive a registration please talk to Pastor Curtis and he will get you a form.

What is the First Baptist Church Foundation?

The FBC Foundation is the investment arm of FBC. A separate corporation founded in 1968, the purpose of the Foundation is to receive endowment gifts and contributions and to invest those funds in such a way as to grow the Foundation and support the mission of First Baptist Church.

In addition to interest on investment, the Foundation grows by donations *in memory of...*, *in honor of...*, estates, and other gifts. These funds are invested through the American Baptist Home Mission Societies Common Investment Fund.

The active membership of the First Baptist Church of Salt Lake City constitutes the voting membership of the Foundation. The Foundation is governed by a 3 person Board of Trustees – currently Ken Burnett, Shirley Rogers, and Kathy Felker. The chair of the Church Administration Ministry Team, the Moderator, and Pastor of FBC-SLC are non-voting, ex-officio representatives.

The bylaws of the Foundation specify that *funds shall not be used for any purposes except those which are for the operation, maintenance and renovation of the FBC church properties and structures.* To this end, the Foundation provides, on a quarterly basis, a percentage of its interest income to the church. In addition, the Foundation makes special grants and short and long-term loans to FBC for facility repair or improvement. For example, the Foundation loaned funds to FBC, secured by congregation pledges, for some of the upfront costs of our new parking lot. This loan is being repaid as those pledges come in.

Watch for more Foundation information in upcoming issues of the Beacon.

Mission News:

We will be helping with Family Promise at St. Catherine's of Siena (Newman Center) May 2nd to May 5th. We will not be doing Family Promise in September as St. Catherine's has decided not to host that month. See, text (801-918-3597), or email (glrpersonal@gmail.com) Gordon for more information.

We need your plastic grocery bags—in fact we need lots of them! Karen Carter and Paula Walker are making sleeping mats out of them. It takes hundreds of them to make one mat. The goal is to provide a sleeping mat with each of the crazy quilts we get tied during hospitality.

Child Development Center News:

We've had a wonderful spring in the Child Development Center. We celebrated Easter: Ms. Jane Nelson and Ms. Maggie Chaney did a wonderful Chapel lessons for our preschoolers on the story of Easter. We also gathered with all the children and parents in the courtyard for an Easter Egg Hunt. Fun was had by all!

We are excited to have new, luscious grass in the courtyard thanks to Dave Felker. The children cannot wait until the grass is healed and the fence can be taken down to run and play.

The childcare is thrilled to be so close and almost done with all nine of the classroom remodels. We finished the Tiger remodel middle of March. The Kangaroo classroom is currently being remodeled and should finish up in the next week. The Lion Classroom is the last remodel in the center. We are working on fundraising to make this last remodel possible.

Funny story from the childcare: One of our teachers was helping to take care of some of the children outside of the childcare while their mom was out of town. I greeted Z during this time and said, "Hi Z, I hear your mom is out of town, is Ms. Taylor helping to take care of you and your baby?" Z replied with, "Yea, Ms. Taylor is going to replace my mom and take care of us now." These kids always keep a smile on our faces and laughs going even when they don't mean to.